

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are amended herein. Claims 8-16 are added herein. Support for the amendments to the claims, as well as for the new claims, may be found in the claims as originally filed and at page 4, lines 8-16 of the specification. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Objections to the Claims:

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 were amended in substantial accord with the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner's suggestions are appreciated. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2001-117820 to Kuroda et al. (hereinafter "Kuroda") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0002561 to Higashiura et al. (hereinafter "Higashiura"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it might apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

In the claimed invention, in several embodiments, a processing history of electronic content is stored on a management device while the content itself is stored on a removable (external) storage device. This allows the space available to store the electronic content to be expanded easily, as the volume of the electronic content increases, by simply replacing the removable storage device with a larger one. To this end, the last clause of claim 1 recites:

Wherein the management device, on command from an external device, registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit.

Neither Kuroda nor Higashiura teach, disclose, or suggest a management device that "registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit," as recited in claim 1.

In Kuroda, rather, as shown in Fig. 1, the electronic original management equipment itself is equipped with the registration means 1, the grant means 2, a management tool 3, and the issue means 4, so nothing related to the processing history or the content of the original

equipment needs to be on another device. The electronic original management equipment of Kuroda thus manages and stores the processing history and the content inside. In particular, as described at paragraph [0006]:

The electronic original management equipment of drawing 1 is equipped with the registration means 1, the grant means 2, a management tool 3, and the issue means 4.

Since, in Kuroda, the electronic original management equipment manages and stores the processing history and the content inside, nothing in the electronic original management equipment “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, in Kuroda, the electronic original management equipment manages both the original information and the electronic intelligence. In particular, as described at paragraph [0007]:

In the 1st aspect of affairs of this invention, the registration means 1 registers electronic intelligence as original information, and the grant means 2 gives the logical identifier information which identifies electronic intelligence uniquely logically, and the whereabouts identification information showing the physical whereabouts of electronic intelligence to the electronic intelligence. A management tool 3 manages original information using the combination identification information based on the combination of logical identifier information and whereabouts identification information, and the issue means 4 publishes registration bond information that it is used for access to original information, including the combination identification information.

Since, in Kuroda, the original information and the electronic intelligence are both managed by the electronic original management equipment, nothing in the electronic original management equipment “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, in Kuroda, a management tool 3 generates a series of corresponding instances of original information according to a change. In particular, as described at paragraph [0011]:

Moreover, in the 2nd aspect of affairs of this invention, a management tool 3 generates a series of corresponding instances of original information according to a change [time series / electronic intelligence], and manages the instance of a series of as one original sequence. The grant means 2 gives original sequence identification information to an original sequence, and the issue means 4 publishes registration bond information that it is used for access to one instance

in a series of instances, including the original sequence identification information.

Since, in Kuroda, the management tool 3 generates a series of corresponding instances of original information according to a change, nothing in the electronic original management equipment “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, in Kuroda, an instance of original information is generated when the registered electronic intelligence changes with updating etc., and the management tool 3 manages a series of instances using the original sequence identification information given by the grant means 2. In particular, as described at paragraph [0012]:

The instance of original information is generated when the registered electronic intelligence changes with updating etc., and a management tool 3 manages a series of instances using the original sequence identification information given by the grant means 2. And the issue means 4 generates the registration bond information containing the original sequence identification information, and publishes it to a registrant etc.

Since, in Kuroda, the electronic original management equipment both generates instances of original information and manages the series of instances of original information, nothing in the electronic original management equipment “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, in Kuroda, the electronic original 14 is only *exchanged* using the secure medium 16, not stored. In particular, as described at paragraph [0018]:

The service client 12 and SA11 are connected to the communication network, and the service client 12 accesses the electronic original 14 in SA11 using the document record 15 published from SA11 at the time of electronic original registration. Moreover, in the case of network connection, in the exchange between SAs11, the electronic original 14 is exchanged like the service client 12 and the communication link between SAs11 using the document record 15. In the case of off-line, the electronic original 14 is exchanged using the secure medium 16.

Since, in Kuroda, the electronic original 14 is only exchanged using the secure medium 16, nothing in the electronic original management equipment “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as

recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, in Kuroda, the electronic original 14 is only exchanged using the secure medium 16, not stored. In particular, as described at paragraph [0019]:

The local environment 13 of a service client side is a system which guarantees safeties (original nature), such as the only nature of the electronic original, in its one post, office, etc. in a firm, and contains local SA21 and a user terminal 22. Original nature is guaranteed only within the local environment 13, and the electronic original managed in local SA21 is not linked with the electronic original in other SAs11. Between local SA21 and external SA11, the information on the electronic original can be exchanged through a communication network or the secure medium 16.

Since, in Kuroda, the electronic original 14 is only exchanged using the secure medium 16, nothing in the electronic original management equipment “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, in Higashiura, the management device *itself* stores the content while the *external* storage unit stores a history of the sweeping process or a history of a backup process. In particular, as described in the Abstract:

When a sweeping process and a backup process are performed on an electronic library file in an electronic library, a file storing a history of the sweeping process or a history of a backup process is generated, and the sweeping and the backup processes are managed. Thus, a user can easily manage as to which medium an original document has been swept to or where a backup copy of the original document is. If the uniqueness of the original document shown in a sweep history and a backup history can be secured, the problem that there can be a plurality of original documents on the storage media of a plurality of electronic libraries can be avoided.

Since, in Higashiura, the management device stores the content while the external storage unit stores a history of the sweeping process or a history of a backup process, nothing in the management device “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1. Thus, since neither Kuroda nor Higashiura teach, disclose, or suggest a management device that “registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit,” as recited in claim 1, their combination cannot either. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 depend from claim 1 and add additional distinguishing elements. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 8-14:

The last clause of claim 8 recites:

Wherein the management device, on a request input of a registration and a revision on the content, registers and revises the content on the second storage unit and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said first storage unit.

Neither Kuroda nor Higashiura teach, disclose, or suggest a management device that “registers and revises the content on the second storage unit and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said first storage unit,” as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 8 is thus also submitted to be allowable, for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and add additional distinguishing elements. Claims 9-14 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-14 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 15:

The last clause of claim 15 recites:

A management device for executing registration and revision processing of the content on an external storage unit that has a media ID that is peculiar to a storage unit and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said internal storage unit, on a request input of a registration and a revision on the content.

Neither Kuroda nor Higashiura teach, disclose, or suggest a management device for “registration and revision processing of the content on an external storage unit that has a media ID that is peculiar to a storage unit and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said internal storage unit, on a request input of a registration and a revision on the content,” as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 15 is thus also submitted to be allowable, for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of

claim 15 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 16:

The last clause of claim 16 recites:

executing registration and revision processing of the content on an external storage unit that has a media ID that is peculiar to a storage unit, on a request input of a registration and a revision on the content.

Neither Kuroda nor Higashiura teach, disclose, or suggest "executing registration and revision processing of the content on an external storage unit that has a media ID that is peculiar to a storage unit, on a request input of a registration and a revision on the content," as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 16 is thus also submitted to be allowable, for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 4:

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda and Higashiura in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0169973 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,866 to Brundrett et al. (hereinafter "Kim"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it might apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and adds additional distinguishing elements. Neither Kuroda nor Higashiura teach, disclose, or suggest a management device that "registers and revises the content on the portable medium and stores a processing history of said registration processing or a revision processing and the media ID for the content in relation to each other into said storage unit," as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Neither Kim nor Brundrett do either, and thus cannot make up for the deficiencies of either Kuroda or Higashiura with respect to claim 4. Claim 4 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-16 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 1-16 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the

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application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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